

Docket No. 27735-12

PATENT

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee; Commissioner for Patents; P.O. Box 1450; Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 16, 2004.

Brandy Rogers

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kerry Stephen McClure et al. : Paper No.:

Serial No.: 10/663,271 : Group Art Unit: 3612

Filing Date: September 16, 2003 : Examiner: Coletta, Lori L.

For: **Cargo Carrying System Having Multiple Closure Members**

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In the Notice of Allowability accompanying the Notice of Allowance dated November 8, 2004, a Statement of Reasons for Allowance was provided. The Examiner's Statement indicates that "the recitations of the specific features of the truck bed for a pickup truck in claim 1 including especially the construction of the shell fixedly supported by the metal support structure and configured to integrally define a portion of a first chamber and a portion of a second chamber, the first chamber being adjacent to the second chamber at an interface is not taught nor is fairly suggested by the prior art of record." Applicants agree that the prior art fails to teach or make obvious these claimed features. However, Applicants wish to clarify that the art also fails to teach or make obvious the claimed truck bed of independent claim 1 and those claims dependent therefrom.

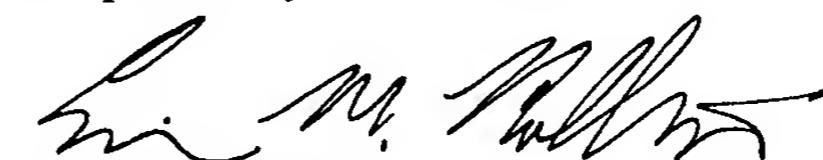
The Examiner's Statement also indicates that "the recitations of the specific features of the truck bed for a pickup truck in claim 22 including especially the construction of the shell fixedly supported by the metal support structure and configured to integrally define a portion of a first chamber and a portion of a second chamber, the first chamber joined with the second chamber at a constructive interface is not taught nor is fairly suggested by the prior art of record." It appears that the Examiner intended to use the word "constrictive" instead of "constructive", as the former, not the latter, actually appears within the text of

claim 22, and Applicants hereby clarify the record in that regard. Reading the word "constructive" as "constrictive", Applicants agree that the prior art fails to teach or make obvious these claimed features. However, Applicants wish to clarify that the art also fails to teach or make obvious the claimed truck bed of independent claim 22 and those claims dependent therefrom.

The Examiner's Statement also indicates that "the recitations of the specific features of the pickup truck in claim 32 including especially the construction of the shell fixedly attached by the metal support structure and configured to integrally define a portion of a first chamber and a portion of a second chamber, the first chamber joined with the second chamber at a constrictive interface, the interface comprising an opening dimensioned to permit the passage of a spare tire for a pickup truck from the first chamber into the second chamber is not taught nor is fairly suggested by the prior art of record." It appears that the Examiner intended to use the word "supported" instead of "attached", as the former, not the latter, actually appears within the text of claim 32, and Applicants hereby clarify the record in that regard. Reading the word "attached" as "supported", Applicants agree that the prior art fails to teach or make obvious these claimed features. However, Applicants wish to clarify that the art also fails to teach or make obvious the claimed pickup truck of independent claim 32 and those claims dependent therefrom.

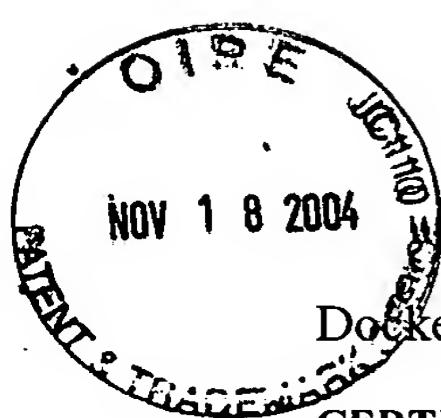
These Comments are submitted in order to clarify the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Entry is therefore believed to be in order and is respectfully requested. Please charge any fee required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 04-1133.

Respectfully submitted,



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TRANSMITTAL OF REPLACEMENT SHEET

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants herewith submit a Replacement Sheet for Figure 4 in which reference character "58" has been deleted in accordance with the Examiner's Amendment dated November 8, 2004. Entry is therefore believed to be in order and is respectfully requested. Please charge any fee required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 04-1133.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric M. Robbins

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